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COTTON INSECT CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 9, 1948
(Eighth Cotton Insect Survey Report for 1948)

Rains and mild temperatures in most areas have been favorable for boll weevils.

The annual fight against the cotton leafworm has begun as several hundred acres of cotton in Calhoun County, Texas were dusted with insecticides on July 10 and 11 to check leafworm damage.

Cotton fields should be examined each week for boll weevils, bollworms, cotton leafworms, tarnished plant bugs and other insects.

No shortages of insecticides have been reported.

"The importance of making weekly infestation counts to determine just what insects are present and how much damage is being done is emphasized by the wasting of poison in large acreages for fleahoppers near Greenwood when fleahoppers were either not present at all or in numbers insufficient to justify control." (Clay Lyle, Stat College, Miss. July 12, 1948)

"Despite the low infestation of weevils many farmers have done considerable early dusting. Estimates indicate from 50% to 90% of the cotton in Barnwell County has been and will be dusted this year. This county was especially hard hit by weevils last year." (J. G. Watts, Entomologist, Edisto Experiment Station, Blackville, S. C. July 10, 1948)

BOLL WEEVIL

TEXAS: Continued rainy weather in central, northern, and some coastal areas has been favorable for weevil development. In north central Texas the boll weevil infestation almost doubled during the week. Infestations are high in the south central area, especially in Lee, Colorado, Bastrop, Lavaca, and Fayette Counties. Cotton is maturing rapidly in the southern third of the State. Infestation records have been discontinued in the lower Rio Grande Valley, due to maturity of the crop. The average boll weevil infestation in 473 fields examined in 43 counties, distributed throughout the State, was 15% punctured squares. No infestation was found in 96 fields. In 171 fields 10% or less of the squares were punctured; in 117 fields from 11 to 25%; in 52 fields from 26 to 50%; and in 37 fields more than 50% of the squares were punctured.

OKLAHOMA: Rains and high temperatures in the eastern and southern sections of the State were favorable for cotton growth and the crop made good progress. The average weevil infestation in 101 fields in 17 counties was 8%. No weevils were found in 45 of the fields examined. In 28 fields 10% or less of the squares were punctured; in 16 fields from 11 to 25%; in 11 fields from 26 to 50%; and in 1 field in Cleveland County more than 50% of the squares were punctured.

LOUISIANA: Local rains and high temperatures were favorable for cotton growth. The average boll weevil infestation in 184 fields in 10 parishes was 11% as compared to 7% the previous week, 17% a year ago, and 41% in 1946. In 35 fields no punctured squares were found; in 91 fields the infestation was 10% or less;

in 35 fields it ranged from 11 to 25%; in 20 fields from 25 to 50%; and in 3 fields in Tensas and Natchitoches Parishes more than 50% of the squares were punctured.

ARKANSAS: "Boll weevils are emerging in the oldest fields of cotton in Chicot and Desha Counties. These are first weevils to develop from eggs laid this year. In Pulaski County weevils are a little late. In Lafayette and Miller Counties weevils are slightly earlier than in Chicot and Desha Counties." (Charles G. Lincoln, Extension Entomologist July 9)

The average boll weevil infestation in 48 fields in 6 southeastern counties was 4% as compared to 5% the previous week, 30% a year ago, and 29% in 1946. No punctured squares were found in 22 of the fields examined. In 15 fields the infestation was 10% or less; in 15 fields from 11 to 25%; and in 2 fields in Desha County more than 25% of the squares were punctured.

MISSISSIPPI: Hot, dry weather held down the boll weevils in most of Mississippi. Weevils were found in 233 of the 461 fields examined in 42 counties with an average of 14% punctured squares as compared to 13% during the previous two weeks and 26% at this time last year. Where cloudy or showery weather has prevailed few weevils have been killed by the high temperatures and poisoning for their control seems warranted on farms in Attala, Carroll, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay, DeSota, Holmes, Issaquena, Jones, Lauderdale, Lowndes, Scott, Sharkey, Warren, Winston, and Yazoo Counties. (Clay Lyle, State College, July 12)

The boll weevil situation in the Delta remained practically the same as last week with weevils in approximately 36% of the fields examined and the average infestation in the infested fields remained about 13% punctured squares. Of the 461 fields examined in Mississippi 338 were on Delta farms in 19 counties. No boll weevils were found in 218 fields including all of the 81 fields examined by entomologists in Bolivar, Coahoma, Grenada, Sunflower, Tallahatchie and Tunica Counties. In 63 fields not more than 10% of the squares were punctured; in 40 Delta fields the infestations ranged between 11 and 25% punctured squares; in 14 fields between 26 and 50% punctured squares; and in only one field in Yazoo County were more than 50% of the squares punctured. B. J. Young, Delta and Pine Land Company, in the Southern part of Bolivar County, reports boll weevils in 187 of the 230 fields examined but no field had more than 14% of the squares punctured and in only 6 fields did the infestation exceed 10% punctured squares.

ALABAMA: "In spite of the long period of dry weather, boll weevils of the first generation are emerging over the southern part of the State in about the normal numbers. The past week I found by square counts that the infestation runs from 2 to 3% in young fields of cotton to as high as 60% in March planted cotton that has not been dusted. We are advising farmers over the southern half of the State to start dusting cotton as soon as machines and insecticides are available. Cotton up until the present time has done unusually well. The plants are heavily fruited. If we do a good job of controlling boll weevil and other pests for the next six weeks I think Alabama will have a good cotton crop." (W. A. Ruffin, Extension Entomologist, July 10)

GEORGIA: Weather unfavorable for the boll weevil has continued as in previous weeks to protect the cotton crop from serious boll weevil damage. In the examination of 136 fields in 56 counties the highest infestation was a field in Coweta County where 51% of the squares were punctured. Next was a field in Hart County with 36% punctured squares. There were 23 fields in 14 counties where the infestations ranged between 11 and 29% punctured squares, 105 infested fields where not more than 10% of the squares were punctured, and 6 fields in the North-eastern counties where no boll weevils or punctured squares were found.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Hot, dry weather prevailed generally throughout the State and the cotton crop made good progress. The average boll weevil infestation in 88 fields in 17 counties was 23% punctured squares as compared to 41% in 1947 and 16% in 1946. In 18 fields the infestation was 10% or less punctured squares; in 47 fields from 11 to 25%; in 19 fields from 26 to 50%; and in 4 fields in Florence and Bamberg Counties more than 50% of the squares were punctured. Boll weevils are not as numerous as in 1947 but more numerous than in 1946. Weevils caused serious damage in 1946 and farmers should inspect their cotton at regular intervals and use poison on all fields that have infestations of 10% or more punctured squares.

"Weather conditions continued hot and dry during the earlier part of the week which was generally unfavorable for boll weevil development. Rain and cool overcast the latter part of the week have been very favorable for weevil development. The hot, dry weather prevailing since cotton started fruiting has resulted in a low weevil infestation in this vicinity (Blackville) at the present time. Some few untreated fields have infestations above 10% but they are the exception. Many untreated fields have less than 5% infestation." (J. G. Watts, Entomologist, Edisto Experiment Station, Blackville, July 10)

NORTH CAROLINA: Weather conditions were favorable for cotton growth and unfavorable for weevil development over the State. Cotton is blooming freely over the State and bolls are present in the southern counties. The average infestation in 105 fields in 19 counties was 7%. No punctured squares were found in 30 of the fields examined. In 55 fields the infestation was 10% or less; in 9 fields from 11 to 25%; and in 11 fields in Hoke, Scotland and Robeson Counties more than 25% of the squares were punctured.

VIRGINIA: No boll weevils or punctured squares were found in 3 fields examined in Nansemond County, but weevils are reported at Capron, Southampton County. (W. Don Fronk, Assistant Entomologist, Holland, July 12)

COTTON FLEAHOPPER, TARNISHED PLANT BUG,
RAPID PLANT BUG AND OTHER MIRIDAE

TEXAS: There was a slight decrease in cotton fleahopper infestation during the week. The average in 492 fields in 44 counties was 8 per 100 terminals as compared to 10 the previous week.

ARKANSAS: "Tarnished plant bugs and their injury are common in Chicot, Desha, and Pulaski Counties. Cross, St. Francis and Phillips Counties have reported trouble with them." (Charles G. Lincoln, Extension Entomologist, Fayetteville July 9)

MISSISSIPPI: Tarnished plant bugs were reported in 57 fields examined in Delta Counties as compared to 128 fields on June 28. It is apparent that these insect are becoming less numerous as the season progresses.

COTTON LEAFWORM

TEXAS: Cotton leafworms have been reported in Calhoun and Victoria Counties. They have been previously reported in Refugio and Hidalgo Counties. Several hundred acres of late planted cotton in Calhoun County have been dusted for leafworm control. Most cotton in southern areas is too mature to be seriously damaged by cotton leafworms.

BOLLWORM

TEXAS: In McLennan County some fields show relatively high infestations of small bollworms. Cotton is very succulent in this area as a result of recent rains and should be very attractive to bollworm moths for egg deposition. Some farmers are preparing to dust for bollworm control.

MISCELLANEOUS INSECTS

TEXAS: Grasshoppers continue to cause serious damage in the central portion of the State. Cultivated crops, especially corn and cotton, are being destroyed. One grower in Dallas County reported 150 acres of cotton completely destroyed by grasshoppers.

ARKANSAS: "Grasshopper trouble is being reported from eastern Arkansas. The outbreak continues in western Arkansas. Alfalfa and soybeans are suffering most of the damage in the Delta. Some baiting, spraying and dusting is underway." (Charles G. Lincoln, Extension Entomologist, Fayetteville, July 9)

MISSISSIPPI: Grasshoppers have seriously damaged pastures in some areas in Bolivar County and they are now moving into adjoining cultivated crops. Insecticides are being applied for their control. Infestations have also been reported in Washington and Issaquena Counties.

VIRGINIA: Tarnished plant bugs, red spider mites, striped flea beetles, thrips and lepidopterous larvae were noted on cotton in Nansemond County. (W. Don Fronk, Assistant Entomologist, Holland, July 12)

INSECTS ON IRRIGATED COTTON OF THE SOUTHWEST

ARIZONA: There was little change in injurious hemipterous insect populations in the Salt River Valley. The injurious insects vary considerably from field to field. Many fields have been dusted or sprayed. Several fields in the Buckeye area are being sprayed by airplanes with chlorinated camphene.

Hemipterous insect populations remain low in Pinal County. Sweepings made in 19 fields averaged less than two injurious insects per 100 sweepings. These insects are also scarce in cotton fields in the Santa Cruz Valley. A light infestation of bollworms was reported in the Sahuarita area.

NEW MEXICO: The sucking insect populations are still low in the Pecos Valley as shown by sweepings made in 22 fields. No injurious insects were collected in 14 of the fields and 8 averaged from 1 to 2 per 100 net strokes.

TEXAS: Sweepings made in the El Paso Valley averaged 8 injurious insects per 100 net strokes as compared to 13 a year ago. The insects ranged from 0 to 25 per 100 net strokes and a few fields needed control measures. Light bollworm infestations were noted.

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